

LEGAL AID GIVEN TO THE DESERVING

Washington Society Is Making Good Progress.

SUCCESS SEEMS ASSURED

Cases Already Presented Show That the Association Should Be Given Good Support.

Newly organized and unique in the local field, the Legal Aid Society of Washington has already won a permanent home in the Capital City.

Its function promises to be the most interesting of the many kinds of charity, as the Legal Aid Society is nothing more than a charitable organization. It has been so since its inception in 1870, when the idea was circulated from Germany to New York.

Three weeks ago the Washington Legal Aid Society was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. Since that time it has advised, free of charge, in more than thirty cases. Its offices have been crowded at times with people who are really in need of advice, but for which they were unable to pay. The purpose of the organization is to meet just such conditions.

The cases brought to the attention of the officers of the legal aid vary, some come complaining of persecution by their creditors, others allege failure to collect small debts, others imagine they have a grievance against corporations, such as railroads, telegraph, and telephone companies. Some of the cases are deserving, but they all are amusing. It is the aim of the society to give all the advice these cases warrant. That, its officers say, they are doing.

Actual Results Attained.
Measured in money the aid given by the association is small as yet. Actual results have, however, been obtained.

One of the most apparent cases that has been brought to the society's attention was that of three women who assert that they have been unjustly committed and retained in St. Elizabeth's Asylum. The letter received by President Bennett from these people follows:

"We would be much obliged to have you either come or send a lawyer from your committee for legal aid. The society to assist us in trying to get out of this asylum, as we have been unjustly put in here, and our residences are in several States, not in the District."

The letter was dated at St. Elizabeth's Asylum, and signed by the women inmates. Mr. Bennett says the case will be looked into, and if the circumstances warrant, action will be taken.

Non-support, wages withheld, and victims of usury are among other cases coming within the scope of the society's help. To each and every one special attention is given. Heretofore this attention was given by the board of officers. It became so urgent that during the past week Mr. Bennett appointed an advisory board made up of Walter C. Chapman, Alexander B. Britton, A. B. Brown, John P. Ernest, J. H. Jennings, Mrs. Ellen S. Mussey, E. H. Thomas, Nathaniel Wilson, William F. Mattingly, and Charles F. Nesbitt. This board will do all the advising in cases of a complicated nature. It will hold weekly sessions if the work continues to increase as it has in the regular three weeks.

As to the future work of the society, Mr. Bennett said last night to a Times reporter: "The only drawback we experience now is the working capital. As yet we have not got money enough to carry us along in pace with the work presenting itself. The society has no money-making features connected with it, and by its very nature should not be self-supporting. Its charges for membership are nominal and made solely in the interest of self-respect of those who apply for help. The dues are \$5 per year for regular members, \$200 for life members. For those who do not desire to become a member of the association and yet want the society's aid a small fee is asked. This, however, need not be paid if in the opinion of the attorney handling the case the applicant is in need of special office expenses are as yet attached to the society's administration here.

Other Official Members.
Besides the advisory board and Mr. Bennett, the society's president, the following members of the local bar are officially associated with the legal aid here: Fred A. Benson, vice president; James G. Shipley, recording secretary; Florence A. Colford, corresponding secretary; Harold H. Martin, treasurer; Edwin C. Dutton, attorney; Helen E. Jamison, assistant attorney; and Ethel Colford, director of branch offices.

The headquarters of the society have been located in Columbian building, with one branch at 811 G street northwest, the Associated Charities quarters. From all accounts, it has done well thus far. Its local officers promise to do more in the future. The whole organization, taking in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Newark, Boston, Denver, and Washington, promises much for the "poor man" at all times. A movement is on foot now to develop legal aid work by the system of co-operation between these seven big cities.

The legal aid is playing as its trump card the protection of the poor, and to prevent them, so far as possible, from falling into the clutches of the "dregs that drag down to ruin." It will attempt to prevent shanghaiing by seeking legislation to punish those convicted of that crime. Washington's new organization has already taken active steps in that direction by urging the passage of the Morrill bill, now in a committee of the House of Representatives.

A Minister's Duty

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"When I know nothing worthy of recommendation I consider it my duty to tell it," says Rev. Jas. Murdoch, of Hamburg, Pa. "Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder has cured me of catarrh of five years' standing. It is certainly magical in its effect. The first application benefited me in five minutes."

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SOME OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY



HELEN E. JAMISON,
Assistant Attorney.

FLORENCE A. COLFORD,
Corresponding Secretary.

ETHEL M. COLFORD
Director in Charge Branch Office.

F. H. BENSON,
Vice President.

It has been assured of the support of Philadelphia, New York, and Boston in this very respect. It hopes, in fact, its officers are confident, they will obtain the satisfactory consideration of the bill.

Asked why the local society should have taken such a decided stand on this particular question, considering that, as a seaport town, Washington was not in the first class, R. R. Bennett, president of the society, said:

The Right Opportunity.

"The belief of the committee was that we should branch right out in the work. The introduction by Mr. Morrill of the bill making shanghaiing a misdemeanor presented the opportunity and it was grasped. It is true the bill if it becomes a law will be more applicable to ports like Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, but then we are, and want to be, far-reaching in our work."

The reports of the New York society, the branch at Philadelphia, and the branch at Chicago known as the "Bureau of Justice," indicate that Mr. Bennett's ideas are well founded. He could, according to data from the other offices, include England and Scotland in legal aid work. London supports an organization known as the "Poor Man's Lawyer's Association," while in Edinburgh a "Legal Dispensary" has been in operation for years.

The statistics of these societies, according to the report of Mr. Bennett, while he was chairman of the legal aid committee of the Board of Trade, show many interesting facts as to the sources of their clientele, patronage and maintenance, the nationality of its applicants, specimen cases, different causes of action, and many other matters and suggestions that makes the work so interesting at all times.

"That," he says, "is primarily the reason the work has progressed so rapidly here. The officers of the society like it and give it their unbiased efforts."

PARENTS TRY TO STEAL EACH OTHER'S CHARGE

Separated, They Arrange Meeting in Order to See Children—Each Attempts to Kidnap.

COLUMBUS, Ind., Feb. 10.—Mr. and Mrs. H. Oldham met at the suburban station in this city the other evening after a separation of several months. Each attempted to kidnap the child that was in the other's possession, and the result was that a commotion was raised that had to be settled by an officer.

Mr. and Mrs. Oldham have been separated since last November. She has been in this city with her parents. When they separated it was agreed that she should take the girl and that he would take the boy.

During their separation there grew a strong desire on the part of each of the parents to see the absent child, and a correspondence resulted in their meeting here.

Just before the 5:30 o'clock car left for Indianapolis Mrs. Oldham tried to get possession of her son, and at the same time Mr. Oldham tried to kidnap his daughter. The children set up a wail, which gave the whole thing away, and the parents got into an argument, which was settled by Marshal Horton, who happened to be in that neighborhood. He advised them to return home and that each take the child of the first choice.

THE WORM HAS TURNED.

A Philadelphia man in St. Louis had a boy arrested for selling his collar with a snuffbox. Things have changed since the days when the people of this city thought it quite proper that they should get it in the neck—Philadelphia North American.

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MACFARLAND WILL OPEN BIG K. C. FAIR

Arrangements Completed for Monday Night Event.

DECORATIONS ARE SUPERB

Several Clubs Will Attend Opening in a Body—Children Guests of Knights February 22.

The arrangements for the fair which will open in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 606 E street northwest, tomorrow night, at 8 o'clock, have been completed. Dr. William E. Pairo, chairman of the executive committee, will preside, and a short address of welcome will be made by Francis P. Sheehy, State deputy of the order of the Knights of Columbus for this jurisdiction.

The speaker of the evening will be Hon. Henry B. F. MacFarland, who will declare the fair formally open. A feature of the exercises will be the singing for the first time of a song composed and set to music by Mrs. Nettie Jennings, of this city. Its title is "Knights of Columbus—1492," and it has been dedicated to the order.

Catholic Clubs Will Attend.

Invitations have been accepted by several organizations in the city to attend in a body, and on February 14 the Catholic clubs will be the guests of the Knights. The members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will visit the fair on February 15, the Catholic Knights of America, February 16, the Elks February 17, and the Knights of St. John on February 20. On Washington's Birthday there will be a children's matinee in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, when the orphan boys and girls will be special guests.

Smoking Den a Feature.

Distinctive colors have been assigned the committees and ladies auxiliaries. The colors of the executive committee are red, white, and blue; Washington Council, pink; Keane Council, white; Carroll Council, red; Spaulding Council, purple, and Potomac Council, Yale blue.

One feature of the fair deserving notice is the smokers' den. It is in charge of the Knockers, a social club within the Knights of Columbus. Those identified with the smokers' apartment are W. Kirkland Harrison, Charles A. Fischer, Julius Weng, J. Floyd Maley, John G. Miller, D. J. O'Connor, Maurice P. Walsh, Dennis Sweeney, Felix McGuire, Thomas J. Trodden, sr., Charles E. Welsh, William E. Reilly, and Dr. A. D. Wilkinson. They have been ably assisted in their work by the following ladies: Mesdames J. Floyd Maley and Charles A. Fischer, and Misses Mary McMahon, Catherine Costigan, Mary Garvey, Katherine McMahon, Adelaide Garvey, and Anna McMahon.

The fair received a considerable impetus at the meeting of Washington Council on last Monday night, when several rousing addresses were made and a number of substantial pledges given.

The meeting was presided over by Lecturer Alexander L. Rorke, and Dr. Henry J. Crossen, in the name of the council, presented a jeweled fourth degree chain to the grand knight, Dr. Wilson P. Malone.

Interesting addresses were made by Hon. John F. Gearin, Senator from Oregon, and by Hon. John C. Monahan, chief of the Bureau of Consular Reports, Department of Commerce and Labor.

SHOT HERSELF TO BE FREE OF NEURALGIA

Unable to Endure Pain, Woman Attempts to End Life With Revolver. Deathbed Confession.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 10.—In a statement made just before she died, Mrs. William W. Douglass, 182 Fairfax avenue, Walnut Hills, who shot herself in a mysterious manner the evening of January 27, declared that the excruciating pains of neuralgia drove her to the act. She said that while in the throes of excruciating pain she found a revolver in her room, and thinking only of the relief from pain which would come with death, she secured the weapon and turned it on herself.

The bullet penetrated her left breast. Pneumonia set in, according to her attending physician, and this was the immediate cause of death.

'TIS THAT OLD ALPHABET JOKE.

"Ever notice how Britton drops his h's?"

"Yes, but he looks out for his p's and q's."

WEIRD CAVE FOUND BY LUNA PARK WORKMEN

Men Suddenly Drop Out of Sight and Mysterious Cavern With Strange Contents Discovered.

Workmen employed on the grading at Luna Park, the summer amusement resort that is being laid out at Four Mile Run, discovered yesterday afternoon an artificial cave that may have sheltered a mystery.

An Italian working on the side of the hill suddenly disappeared and his fellows who ran to his assistance also dropped.

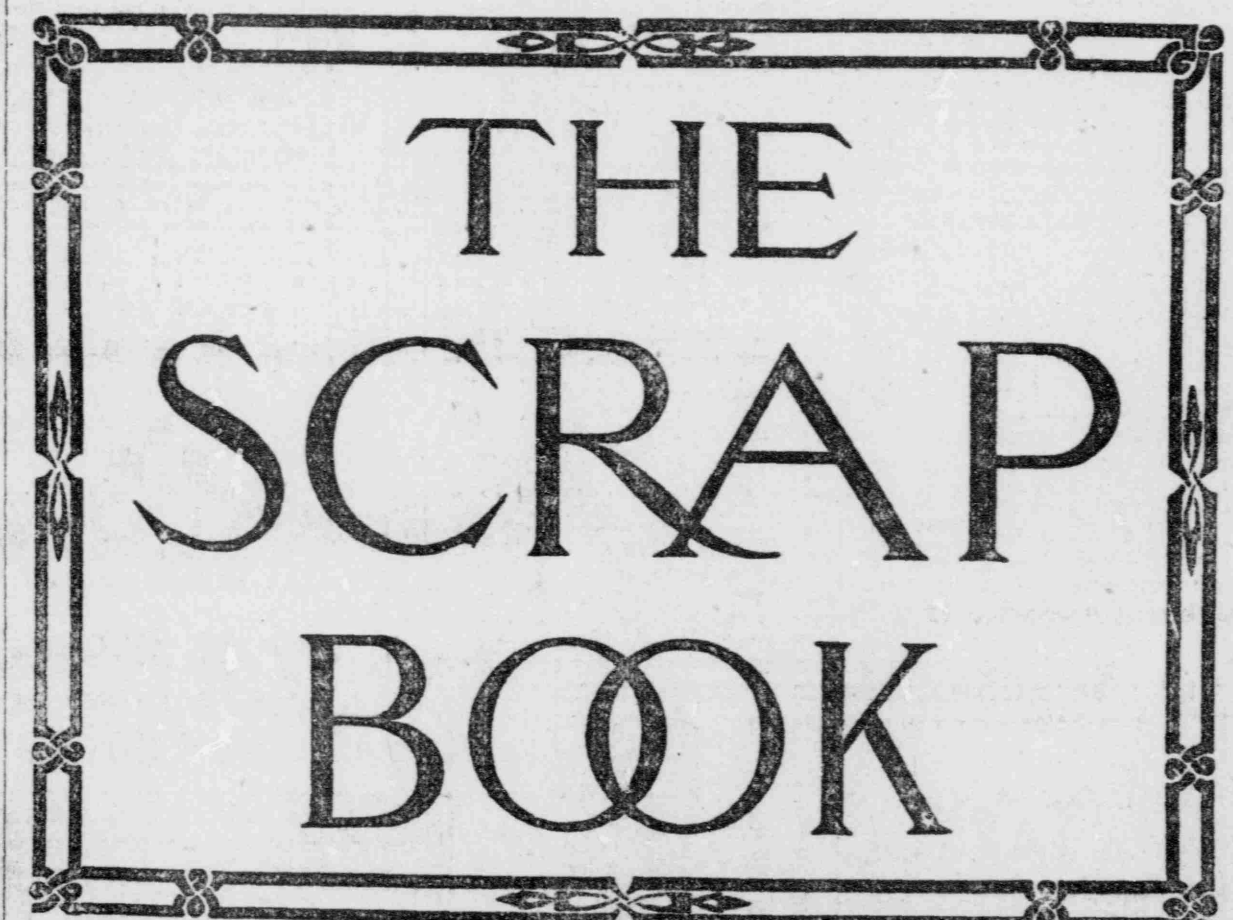
An investigation disclosed the fact that the men had fallen into a cavern, that for years must have been the hide of some eccentric individual.

There were five circular rooms in the cave, each about eight feet in diameter and seven feet high, connected by small passages ways. There was a fireplace but no chimney.

In another room was found a very old volume of Shakespeare, several books by Rider Haggard, and an old Bible that had been strangely mutilated, and Indian arrow heads and implements wrapped in leaves torn from the Bible.

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PUT NAILS ON TRACKS; ARRESTED IN ROCKVILLE

Colored Men Charged With Attempting to Wreck Trains of B. & O. Now in Jail.

ROCKVILLE, Md., Feb. 10.—Augustus and John Williams, both colored, are in jail here, having been committed by Justice of the Peace Joseph Reading, to answer a charge of attempting to wreck trains on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, near this town.

It is alleged that these men put nails used in fastening the rails to the ties upon the rails, with the points toward the next approaching train. When the next engine eastbound struck the nails they sled off the rails, but the engine westbound was not so fortunate, as it bucked and ran over them, the engineer being jerked down in his cab. Otherwise, no serious damage occurred.

When the men were arrested, they admitted the accusations, saying that they did it for fun.

It is alleged that the crime was committed on last Tuesday, and the arrest took place late yesterday.

NINE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR STARTER IN RUSSIA

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 10.—If the elections to the duma are fought out upon existing tickets, Russia, in her first stage of parliamentaryism, will have a multiplicity of parties which would frighten even a member of the German reichstag.

Up to the present time there are nine parties, namely: The Social Revolutionaries, Social Democrats, Radicals, Free-thinkers, Constitutional Democrats, Moderates, Progressives, Progressive Economists, Seventeenth Octoberists, and Party of Law and Order.

Of these the first three have openly declared for a democratic republic. The other six will be content with a constitutional monarchy. The last four accept the duma as a solution. The other five demand a constituent assembly with absolute power to draw up a constitution.

The first five demand equal, secret, direct, and universal suffrage.

STARVED CHILDREN, THEN BURNED COURTHOUSE

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Feb. 10.—Asbury Stokes was arrested today charged with burning the court house of Meigs county four years ago. An indictment was found there against him on the charge of starving his children to death, and he burned the court house to destroy all evidence. Ella Parker, his stepdaughter, betrayed him to the officials, saying that she exchanged eggs for three gallons of coal oil and this was used by Stokes to burn the court house.

EX-POLICEMAN GUILTY OF CRUELTY TO HORSE

Offense Committed a Year Ago When Officer Beat Animal an Hour and a Half.

After a trial lasting two days, Amos A. Roper, a former member of the Metropolitan Police Force, was late Friday afternoon found guilty of cruelty to animals by a jury in the District branch of the Police Court.

Roper was arrested on February 2, 1905, for beating a balky horse, at the intersection of New York avenue and N streets northwest, for over one hour and a half.

Shortly after the beating was administered Roper was arrested and tried before the late Judge Scott, and fined \$50. A motion for a new trial was granted and after dragging along for over a year the case was brought up for trial Thursday morning. It was before the jury all day Thursday and Friday before a decision was reached.

It was testified that on February 9, 1905, a horse belonging to Roper, hitched to a coal cart, balked at the corner of New York avenue and N street, at 9 o'clock in the morning. The colored driver beat the animal and tried to make it go. At 12 o'clock noon the horse still refused to go and Roper arrived on the scene. Witnesses testified that Roper beat the horse from 12 o'clock noon until 1:30.

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